

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MARR, UR, US, XO
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN: TASS ACCUSES U.S. OF FREEZING
TALKS, BUILDING UP FORCES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15918 (NOTAL), (B) PORT LOUIS 761 (NOTAL)

1. TASS WIRE OF JULY 11 CARRIES ITEM BY "ANALYST"
ALEKSEI PETROV (ASSUME FBIS HAS PROVIDED TEXT) ON
INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF PIECE,
OSTENSIBLY POSING TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHY THE
U.S. HAS "FROZEN" TALKS AND WHY THE U.S. IS "INTENSIVELY
WIDENING ITS MILITARY ACTIVITY" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, ARE:

-- DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSERTION, NEGOTIATIONS
"HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DISCONTINUED," WHICH HAS TAKEN
PLACE "BY NO MEANS ON THE SOVIET UNION'S INITIATIVE;"
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-- THE U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND PLAN "LARGE-
SCALE NAVAL EXERCISES" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN THIS AUTUMN;

-- CONSTRUCTION "IS FULL SPEED AHEAD" ON DIEGO GARCIA; AND

-- TALKS HAVE RESUMED "ON THE CREATION OF A MILITARY

BLOC IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA."

THE ITEM CONCLUDES WITH A RHETORICAL QUESTION
SUGGESTING THAT THE U.S. HAS FROZEN INDIAN OCEAN
TALKS "IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A BUILD-UP OF ITS
MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THAT AREA."

2. COMMENT: AS REFTELS SUGGEST, THE SOVIETS APPEAR
TO BE BUILDING UP PRESSURE ON THE U.S. ON THE
SUBJECT OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS AND THEY PROBABLY
LOOK TO ARTICLES SUCH AS PETROV'S TO INTENSIFY
THIS PRESSURE. MORE OF THE SAME CAN PROBABLY BE
EXPECTED. MATLOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. CEURVORST.

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